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Agenda item 77

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR
PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia,
United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution

Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, 1/

Taking note of the letter dated 15 September 1994 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East addressed to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report of the Commissioner-General,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13).

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 48/40 E, 2/ 48/40 H 3/ and 48/40 J 4/ of 19 December 1993,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 5/

Affirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 6/to the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Aware of the fact that Palestine refugees have, for over four decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Aware also of the continuing needs of Palestine refugees throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in the other fields of operation, namely in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Expressing its appreciation for the role which has been played by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East over the years in the service of the Palestine refugees, and aware of the importance of its presence and the increase in its work in the new circumstances,

Aware further of the valuable work done by the refugee affairs officers of the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestinian refugees,

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency and its effect on the continuity of provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Aware of the initiation of the new Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency,

Convinced of the necessity of the transfer of the headquarters of the Agency to the occupied Palestinian territory as part of the area of operation of the Agency,

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2/ A/49/440.

3/ A/49/442.

4/ A/49/443.

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. I, No. I-4.

6/ Ibid., vol. 75, No. I-973.

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements 7/ by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area of 4 May 1994, 8/

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Palestine Liberation Organization, 9/

Recalling its decision 48/417 of 10 December 1993 on the establishment of a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work;

2. Expresses its appreciation also to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the Assembly informed on its activities, including the full implementation of General Assembly decision 48/417;

3. Acknowledges the support of the host Governments and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

4. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 6/ and to abide scrupulously by its provisions;

5. Also calls upon Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 5/ with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency and the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

6. Calls once again on the Government of Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side;

7. Requests the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied Palestinian territory;

7/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

8/ A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), annex I.

8. Notes that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements 7/ by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and subsequent implementation agreements has had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General in the occupied territory, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory;

9. Notes also that the functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation;

10. Notes further the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency during the first year following the signing of the Declaration of Principles;

11. Urges all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees.